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NEW RADNOR RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

RADNORSHIRE

JOINT

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND OF THE

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1959





MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

AS AT 31ST DECEMBER, 1959

INCLUDING PARISH THEY REPRESENT

J.E. Hughes, Llandegley - Chairman  
J.H. Evans, Evenjobb - Vice-Chairman

A. L. Price	-	COLVA	A. B. Roberts	-	LLANFIHANGEL
J. T. Edwards	-	EDNOL	S. K. Williams	-	MICHAELCHURCH
R. Price	-	GLADESTRY	T. P. Lloyd	-	NEWCHURCH
C. T. Davies	-	GLASCWM	J. Lloyd	-	NEW RADNOR
Mrs. I. Harley	-	GLASCWM	J. G. Taft	-	OLD RADNOR
B.D.R. Ball	-	HARPTON	E. L. Mills	-	TREWERN
V. T. Jones	-	KINNERTON	P. S. Hughes	-	WALTON

Clerk & Chief Financial Officer	-	R.A. INGRAM
Medical Officer of Health	-	R.H. JOBSON
Surveyor & Public Health Inspector	-	L. ALLEN, M.A.P.H.I.,



To the Chairman and Members of the New Radnor R.D. Council.

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

In presenting this joint Annual Report, I wish to thank Mr. Allen for his contribution towards it and for his co-operation in the past year.

RICHARD H. JOBSON,  
Medical Officer of Health.

1. STATISTICS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres).....	51,892
Number of inhabited houses.....	628
(according to Rate Book 1959)	
Population.....	2,180
Rateable Value (as at 31.12.59).....	£11,113
Sum represented by a ld. rate.....	£41

2. VITAL STATISTICS.

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
(a) Live Births (legitimate).....	28	13	15
" " (illegitimate).....	3	1	2
TOTALS	<u>31</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>17</u>
(b) Still Births (legitimate).....	-	-	-
" " (illegitimate).....	-	-	-
(c) <u>Infant Mortality.</u>			
(i) Death of infants under 1 year	1	1	-
(ii) " " " " 4 weeks	1	1	-
(iii) " " " " 1 week	1	1	-
(iv) " from puerperal causes	-	-	-
(d) <u>Causes of death - Statistics provided by the Registrar General.</u>			

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
10. Malignant Neoplasm stomach	1	-	1
14. Other malignant and Lymphatic neoplasms	3	1	2
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	2	1	1
18. Coronary disease angina	5	2	3
20. Other heart disease	5	3	2
23. Pneumonia	1	1	-
24. Bronchitis	1	-	1
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	1	1	-
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	2	1	1
34. All other accidents	1	1	-
TOTALS	<u>22</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>11</u>

3. INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Apart from the inevitable epidemics of colds and influenza (some cases commencing with gastro-intestinal symptoms) the district had remained surprisingly free. There was an epidemic of measles in the neighbouring districts, but it did not reach the same proportions here.

4. TUBERCULOSIS.

The County Medical Officer deals with all aspects of this disease.

5. NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT, 1946.

The County Council is the responsible Authority for the execution of this Act.

(a) Laboratory Facilities.

These are provided by the Public Health Laboratory at Hereford and the Public Analyst's Laboratory at Carmarthen.

(b) Ambulance Services.

The County Ambulance Headquarters are at the County Hospital, Llandrindod Wells. This ambulance has to be used even when cases are being sent out of the County, principally to the County Hospital, Hereford.

(c) Dental Care of Mothers and Young Children.

These facilities are provided by the County Council.

(d) Child Welfare.

... The Child Welfare Centre is at Walton, and is attended monthly by the District Medical Officer.

The following portion of the report has been compiled by the Surveyor and Public Health Inspector :-

6. WATER SUPPLIES.

General.

Samples of both public and private water supplies were taken and submitted for analysis. Some samples were not entirely satisfactory, but improvements were carried out to these supplies and every effort is being made to keep them satisfactory.

Owing to the prolonged dry weather, water shortages were experienced in several of the villages and warning notices to conserve water had to be prepared. Numerous private supplies in the district failed altogether, especially in the Radnor Valley area, and this situation was aggravated by the river running through the centre of the valley drying up. Farmers and others experienced the task of having to transport all water for stock, human consumption and other domestic purposes.

An additional water shortage is being created by the modernization of existing dwellings, leading to greater water consumption from already depleted water sources, and this will continue.

The only satisfactory solution to these water shortages is a safe piped supply as envisaged by the Council's comprehensive water schemes. Every effort should be made to have these schemes commenced so as to ensure that the possible creation of a Water Board would create no further delay.

New Radnor (Extended) Scheme.

This scheme is for the abstraction of water from stream in Harley Valley, to supply consumers in the Radnor Valley. Progress on this scheme is exceedingly slow despite all the efforts of the Council and other parties to speed things up. On the request of the Consulting Engineers further samples of this water were taken (especially following heavy rainfall) to ascertain the necessity for flocculation and filtration. During the year, the abstraction order was confirmed. Additional heavy cost is being placed on this scheme through delays beyond the control of the Council.



6. WATER SUPPLIES (Continued).

Franksbridge Scheme.

The trial hole excavated on this site was not successful. The scheme which has now been provisionally approved by the Ministry is for the abstraction of water direct from the River Edw, filtration, chlorination and pumping to a reservoir, so as to afford a gravity supply to consumers. Detailed plans are being prepared and it is hoped to invite tenders for and commence this work during the following year.

Llandegley and Penybont Scheme.

This is a joint scheme with the Rhayader R.D.C., water being obtained from the Birmingham Aqueduct. The early part of the year saw the completion of this scheme. Initially some complaints were received from consumers of taste and slight discolouration in the water. These complaints would appear to have been due to the fact that most of the consumers had been used to drinking spring water, and it only needed time for them to get accustomed to the new supply.

Newchurch.

The source of supply for part of this village is from a private spring well. This spring is liable to flooding. Additional protection was provided around the spring by the owner so as to eliminate fouling by farm animals.

The Council have engaged Consulting Engineers with a view to providing an improved piped supply for part of the village concerned.

7. DRAINAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Three small sewage disposal plants are in operation in the district dealing with sewage mainly from Council housing estates. Remainder of district is drained into septic tank/soakaways.

Difficulties are experienced with the maintenance of these disposal plants, as the Council do not employ any full-time workmen, but casual or part-time labour has to be relied upon. The services of a private Contractor are obtained for emptying the tanks when necessary and contents are disposed of on a sludge drying bed at one of the existing works.

8. REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

The collection of household refuse is carried out by private Contractor. A monthly collection of refuse is maintained from all properties situated beside the classified roads. Disposal is by means of controlled tipping on 3 separate sites. One of these tips is nearly full, but application will be made to have it extended.

9. RODENT CONTROL.

The Council terminated the services of their Rodent Operator during the year. Whilst this was a retrograde step to take, the Council felt that they could not retain the services of this employee on their own. (He had previously been employed jointly with Kington U.D.C. and they had also decided to terminate his services). It was pointed out to the Council that they are responsible for surveying their district to ascertain the extent (if any) of rodent infestation in their area, and to seeing that any infestations discovered are destroyed. In spite of this set-back no major rodent infestations had occurred in the area. A private Contractor provides a contract service for farmers who wish to avail themselves of same, and the Council agreed that ready mixed baits could still be provided for dwelling-houses.

10. RIVERS POLLUTION PREVENTION.

An unusual occurrence during the year was the pollution of the Gilwern Brook with diesel oil. Upon investigation the cause of pollution was traced back to a tributary of this brook passing by some Stone Quarries in the area, and originating from a leaking storage tank. Slight evidence of pollution persisted for some time due to diesel oil having been absorbed into the surrounding ground and getting washed out again during heavy rainfall.

## 11. HOUSING.

### (a) General.

The general condition of the houses in the district has improved greatly during the year. This has been brought about by (1) the extension of electricity mains into the rural area; (2) the provision of grants by the Local Authority under the Housing Acts; and the Ministry under Hill Farming Schemes and (3) the provision of piped water supplies (this applies particularly to the Llandegley area).

### (b) Housing Survey.

The survey of houses in the district was completed and the completed survey showed the following :-

<u>Category</u>	I	II	III	IV	V	<u>TOTAL</u>
<u>Houses</u>	98	93	367	19	73	650

### (c) Slum Clearance.

Two properties were scheduled for action in terms of Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1957 and undertakings accepted in respect of both properties. Both occupiers were rehoused in new Council houses.

A provisional list of 30 houses was drawn up at the end of the year for the Council to consider with a view to taking action in terms of Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1957. All of these properties are unoccupied.

### (d) Council Houses.

The total number of Council houses in the district is 42. The Council are considering erecting a further 3 pairs of houses in separate villages mainly for slum clearance.

### (e) Improvement Grants (Discretionary).

Five applications were received for discretionary improvement grants and all were approved. Below are figures comparing the number of improvement grants with those for previous years :-

	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1958</u>	<u>1959</u>
No. of applications approved	8	7	5	5
Total amount of grants	£1,785	£1,437	£1,542	£1,520

#### Standard.

One application was received for a Standard grant and this was approved.

### (f) Caravan Sites.

Six individual Caravan Sites have been licensed in the district. These are all well maintained. Inconvenience was caused and nuisances created due to caravan dwellers settling in the Llandegley parish on Penybont Common. Following repeated visits, these personnel eventually "moved on."

## 12. FOOD PREMISES AND FOOD INSPECTION.

### (a) Food Premises.

These premises are summarized as follows :-

Butchers Shop	1
Bakery	1
Grocery Stores	7
Public Houses	8

Total number of inspections carried out is 34.



12. FOOD PREMISES AND FOOD INSPECTION (Continued).

(a) Food Premises (Continued).

One Public house has been reconditioned inside and drainage facilities improved and facilities at other shops have been modernized so as to bring them in line with modern legislation.

(b) Section 14 - Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

No. of premises registered for the storage and sale of ice-cream	-	7
No. of premises registered for the preparation and sale of sausages	-	1
Total number of inspections carried out	-	<u>16</u>

(c) Meat Inspection.

There are no licensed slaughter-houses in the district. All meat retailed from butchers shop or vans coming into the district, is slaughtered outside the district and inspected before it leaves the slaughterhouse.

(d) Milk Supply.

All dairy premises in the district are occupied by producer/wholesaler and come under the supervision of the Ministry of Agriculture. Any retailers have their dairy premises outside the district.

13. FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948.

No. of Mechanical Factories	-	9
No. of Non-Mechanical Factories	-	3
Total Number of Inspections	-	<u>12</u>

